



GreenPath Premieres Tiered Student Loan Counseling Options

By **Mark Munzenberger**, *Student Loan and Housing Counseling Manager*

About 40 million Americans owe \$1.2 trillion in student loan debt. And one in four student loan borrowers are either in delinquency or default. If you or someone you know is stressing about student loans, help is just a phone call away.

GreenPath has been helping people with student loan advice and assistance for many years. Now we're taking those services to the next level by launching a new, dedicated Student Loan Services department.

If during your free counseling session, it is determined that you could benefit from a customized session to discuss options for managing your student loan debt, our new services are available to you.

Our student loan experts have completed an intensive training program to ensure that they know all about the many loan repayment options.

GreenPath has created two tiers of service to help student loan borrowers regain their financial footing:

- **Student Loan Counseling (\$50)** – This 30-45 minute counseling session is a great first step. A highly-trained student loan expert will:
 - **Review each of your student loans.** We'll assess how much you owe, payment terms, and repayment program eligibility for each loan.
 - **Explore your repayment options.** We'll help you understand the pros and cons of each option.
 - **Develop a customized plan.** We'll provide unbiased advice, and create a plan just for you.
- **Student Loan Enhanced Support (\$200)** – These 60-90 minute sessions are conducted by appointment



only. The enhanced support session is tailored for borrowers who need additional assistance. This is especially helpful if you're in default or having trouble with your loan servicer(s). A certified student loan expert will:

- **Conduct an in-depth analysis.** We will examine both federal and private student loans, and will seek payment arrangements that fit your financial situation.
- **Address delinquent and defaulted loans.** We will create a plan to bring delinquent loans current, and rehabilitate defaulted loans.
- **Help you submit paperwork.** If appropriate, we'll help you apply for student loan repayment programs based on your employment and/or income.
- **Contact your loan servicer(s).** We'll partner with you every step of way until a final resolution is reached.

Some borrowers want to aggressively pay down their loans as quickly as possible, to avoid additional interest expense. Others need a lower monthly payment to help establish a workable monthly budget.

GreenPath's experts will partner with you to understand your goals, and help you determine which repayment option is best for you. You'll always get knowledgeable, trustworthy guidance.

For more information, please call (877) 337-3399.

New Name Coming Soon

In April, GreenPath Debt Solutions will change its name to GreenPath Financial Wellness.

So, why the name change? This is part of GreenPath's long-term strategy to **help more people**, and **help people more**. We want to be a resource for every person who has a financial goal or concern, not just those in debt. This is reflected in our new mission: Empowering people to lead financially healthy lives.

In the coming years, GreenPath will utilize technology in new ways to make it easier to access information and do business with us. In the future, we will also be adding new services to help more people.

Yes, we'll still be partnering with people to help them with credit card debt, student loan debt and mortgage debt. We'll offer financial services for people who want to save for retirement, stop living paycheck to paycheck, or prepare for major life events such as getting married, having a baby or caring for an aging parent.

We want to help ensure that you have Financial Wellness throughout your life. And we will be with you every step of the way!



United Way Provides Free Tax Preparation

United Way, a GreenPath in Your Community Partner, recently announced that it will provide free tax filing for individuals making \$62,000 or less in 2015.

Filers can enter data 24/7 into a secure website, **MyFreeTaxes.com**, which is managed by **H&R Block**. It's easy to update the documents from home, at work or on mobile devices. The service also includes a helpline, 1-855-MY-TX-HELP, which operates through April 18, from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, and noon to 9 p.m. ET Saturday. Staff will continue to provide assistance on a more limited basis through October 15, based on demand. The website also provides a live chat function.

United Way offers free in-person filing assistance through **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** sites. Find a site near you by visiting MyFreeTaxes or calling 1-855-MY-TX-HELP.



Individuals earning more than \$62,000 in 2015 can still use the H&R Block software, at a discounted rate, through the MyFreeTaxes site.

MyFreeTaxes is provided by United Way, with a grant from the **Walmart Foundation**. The tax filing software is provided by H&R Block, and free tax support is available, in English and Spanish, by IRS-certified specialists.

Webinar Wednesdays in March

GreenPath will host two webinars in March. These 30-minute, online programs are taught by GreenPath education specialists. The webinars are always free and informative without a sales pitch. There's also plenty of time for Q&A at the end of the program.

Financial Challenges Facing Each Generation – Wednesday, March 9 at noon ET

Whether you're a member of the Greatest Generation, a Baby Boomer, Generation X or Millennial, we all want to have financially comfortable lives. But each generation has their own idea about how to make that happen. Join us as we take a look at money management by the generations, and see how similar and different we really are.

First Time Home Buying Tips – Wednesday, March 23 at noon ET

Buying your first home can be an exciting and memorable experience. It can also be a confusing and overwhelming time. This webinar will provide you with some important tips to make your first time home buying experience a success! Join us for this free webinar.

To sign up for any of these personal finance webinars, log on to www.greenpath.com/gfw-webinars.